

REMARKS

Claims 45-65 are pending in the present application, claims 1-44 having been cancelled and claims 45-65 having been substituted therefor. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims were objected to as being in improper form and containing a number of informalities. Cancellation of the claims and substitution of new claims 45-65 has eliminated these defects. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 14-30 and 35-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Paltenghe et al (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020004783A1). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Paltenghe in view of Gennaro et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,937,066). Cancellation of these claims has rendered these rejections moot. Applicant respectfully submits that the new submitted claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 11-12, 31-34 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Paltenghe in view of Cordery (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,899).

Claim 45 recites an IC card comprising an electronic wallet unit for management of electronic value information, electronic wallet storage unit that is the intrinsic storage area of the electronic wallet unit, electronic information registration unit registering the electronic value information to an electronic safe unit connected through a network and acquiring a registration certificate from the electronic safe unit, and electronic information recovery unit for acquiring said electronic value information by presenting said registration certificate to said electronic safe unit. The IC card further includes electronic information dividing unit for dividing the electronic value information to the desired number of partial electronic information pieces to which an identifier for recovering the electronic value information to the original electronic value information is respectively added, and an electronic information combining unit for recovering the electronic value information from said divided electronic information pieces. The electronic registration unit acquires a plurality of partial electronic information pieces by requesting division of said electronic value information to said electronic information dividing unit and also acquires respective partial information registration certificates by registering the entire part or a part of said partial electronic information to the electronic safe unit.

The electronic information recovery unit acquires respective corresponding partial electronic information pieces by presenting the entire part or a part of said partial information registration certificates to the electronic safe unit that has issued the respective partial information registration certificates, and the electronic information combining unit recovers said electronic value information from said obtained partial electronic information pieces. This is not taught, disclosed, or made obvious by the prior art of record.

According to the claimed invention, the electronic information dividing unit divides an electronic value information to the desired number of partial electronic information pieces to which an identifier for recovering the electronic value information to the original electronic value information is respectively added, and the electronic information combining unit recovers the original electronic value information from the divided electronic information pieces. Such features are not disclosed in the references cited in the Office Action.

Further, according to the present claimed invention, the electronic information registration unit acquires a plurality of partial electronic information pieces by requesting division of the electronic value information to the

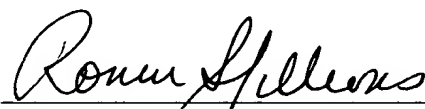
electronic information dividing means and also acquires respective partial information registration certificates by registering the entire part or a part of the partial electronic information to the electronic safe unit. These features are also not disclosed in the cited references. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 45-65 are patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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